

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18, 21-24, 26-32, 34-39, 41, 43-51, and 53-62 are pending in this application with claims 1, 9, 15, 17, 21, 29, 36, 38, 41, 50, and 55-62 being the independent claims.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-5, 12-13, 25-26, 33-34, 42, 45-46, 49, 51-52.

### ***Claim Rejections***

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-24, 27-32, 35-41, 43-44, 47-48, 50, and 53-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. US2003/0217292 to Steiger et al ("Steiger").

### ***Independent Claim 1 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 1, claims 2-3 and 5-8 are also allowable.

### ***Independent Claim 9 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 9 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 9, claims 10-11 and 13-14 are also allowable.

### ***Independent Claim 15 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 15 is allowable. Based at least upon its dependence from claim 15, claim 16 is also allowable.

***Independent Claim 17 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable. Based at least upon its dependence from claim 17, claim 18 is also allowable.

***Claim 19-20 and 40***

Claims 19-20 and 40 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

***Independent Claim 21 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 21, claims 22-24 and 26-28 are also allowable.

***Independent Claim 29 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 33, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 29 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 29, claims 30-32 and 34-35 are also allowable.

***Independent Claim 36 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 36 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 36 is allowable. Based at least upon its dependence from claim 36, claim 37 is also allowable.

***Independent Claim 38 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 38 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 33, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 38 is allowable. Based at least upon its dependence from claim 38, claim 39 is also allowable.

***Independent Claim 41 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 41 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 42, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 41 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 41, claims 43-49 are also allowable.

***Independent Claim 50 and its Dependent Claims***

Claim 50 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 52, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 50 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 50, claims 51 and 53-54 are also allowable.

***New Claims 55-62***

New claim 55 includes the subject matter of claim 5 and its base claim (previous claim 1), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 55 is allowable.

New claim 56 includes the subject matter of claim 13 and its base claim (previous claim 9), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 56 is allowable.

New claim 57 includes the subject matter of claim 26 and its base claim (previous claim 21), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 57 is allowable.

New claim 58 includes the subject matter of claim 34 and its base claim (previous claim 29), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 58 is allowable.

New claim 59 includes the subject matter of claim 45 and its base claim (previous claim 41), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 59 is allowable.

New claim 60 includes the subject matter of claim 46 and its base claim (previous claim 41), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 60 is allowable.

New claim 61 includes the subject matter of claim 49 and its base claim (previous claim 41), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 61 is allowable.

New claim 62 includes the subject matter of claim 51 and its base claim (previous claim 50), which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, claim 62 is allowable.

### CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection and objection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections, and that they be withdrawn. The Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.


Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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